

**LETTERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MANGANESE
FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
ON THE GENESIS OF ORE DEPOSITS**

MEMORIAL OF DONNEL FOSTER HEWETT

JOHN VAN N. DORR

DR. DONNEL FOSTER HEWETT died on February 5, 1971 in Menlo Park, California. He was approaching his 90th birthday.

DR. HEWETT, called Foster by his many friends and admirers, contributed a great deal to our knowledge of the mineralogy and geology of manganese not only through his own immense energy, deep knowledge, and scientific skills but perhaps even more by mobilizing many able men to study the deposits of this element throughout this country and Latin America during the periods when he could devote little time to the subject himself owing to administrative duties.

He graduated from Lehigh University in 1902 as a mining and metallurgical engineer and was in commercial work until 1911. During this period he was responsible for the development of the famous Minas Ragra vanadium deposit in Peru, for many years a principal source of vanadium in the world. He received his PhD in geology from Yale in 1924 and a Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Lehigh in 1942. He served twice as Vice President of the Geological Society of America and as Vice President and President of the Society of Economic Geologists, as well as Distinguished Lecturer of the latter organization. He was a member of the National Academy of Science.

His career with the United States Geological Survey began in 1911 and continued in positions of ever increasing responsibility until serious illness in 1944. This, however, was not the end of his active career with USGS; he continued work until a month before his death. The years after his retirement from administrative work were the most productive ones from a scientific viewpoint; relieved from administrative responsibilities, he could concentrate on field work and on laboratory research, in the course of which the large bastnäsite deposits of the Mohave desert were discovered and a number of important papers on manganese were produced.

The files and specimens in his Menlo Park office are an extraordinary monument to his wide-ranging interest in and knowledge of the manganese occurrences of the world and to his far-flung correspondence with scientists of many countries working on this element.

Hewett's most lasting contribution to the science of geology was perhaps in bringing forward, stimulating, and giving wise guidance to a large number of young men, now at the apices of distinguished careers of their own. He was a very human man, loved for his strengths and for his foibles alike. His extraordinary productivity in later years and his wisdom and kindness will always be an inspiration to those who knew him.

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